

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted Florida's request for a disaster declaration following the severe weather conditions of the past several months. Rooney recently led members of Florida's Congressional delegation in urging USDA. to expedite the state's request.

"After one of the coldest December's in Florida's history, our state is facing significant crop loss and damage. Now that USDA has granted this disaster declaration, Florida's agriculture community can begin the long road to recovery," Rooney said.

"Florida agriculture is vital not just to our state and local economies, but to our nation's economy. This disaster declaration will help our vital agriculture industry get back in the business of feeding America."

A disaster declaration makes farm operators eligible for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), including FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program. All eight counties on the 16th district – Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie – received disaster declarations.

Congressman Rooney serves as Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry.

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